



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
NATIONAL CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
WASHINGTON, DC 20460

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OFFICE OF  
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Michael Girard, Chairman  
Perchlorate Study Group  
P.O. Box 13222  
Sacramento, California 95813-6000

Dear Mr. Girard:

Thank you very much for your November 9 letter to Office of Research and Development Assistant Administrator Norine E. Noonan updating the Agency on the status of the Perchlorate Study Group's (PSG) funding of and schedule for the significant data collection effort that is underway on perchlorate. Dr. Noonan has requested that I respond to you on her behalf.

We greatly appreciate the support expressed in your letter for the Environmental Protection Agency's assessment efforts and very much value the partnership of PSG in these data collection activities. As we discussed, we are very interested in the progress of the PSG-funded perchlorate studies and will expect periodic updates on progress from you as the results of the studies come in. The results of these studies are important to the underlying data base that will support the Agency's integrated perchlorate assessment which will undergo external peer review in Fall 2000. It is, therefore, critical that we stay on track with the data collection.

Again, thank you for your letter. We look forward to continuing the close working relationship with you and your colleagues. The level of cooperation on perchlorate with PSG and the other federal partners has been a model that should be emulated elsewhere.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "William H. Farland", is written over a horizontal line.

William H. Farland, Ph.D.  
Director  
National Center for Environmental  
Assessment